

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH

THIRTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

SENATE.

BY MORSE'S MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH, OFFICE, CORNER OF BEAVER AND HANOVER STREETS, WASHINGTON, Feb. 1, 1851.

TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY.

A communication from the War Department, enclosing the report of the Topographical Survey between San Diego and Colorado, was received, and the printing ordered.

PETITIONS.

Mr. BARNARD presented a petition from Rochester, New York, that the revenue from boxes in post offices be paid into the treasury instead of to postmasters; also, various petitions for the modification of the tariff, and the repeal of the Fugitive Slave law.

Mr. CLAY presented numerous petitions for the modification of the tariff.

PROPOSITION FOR NEW COIN.

Mr. HUNTER offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Committee on Finance be instructed to enquire into the expediency of coining dollars, half, and quarter dollars, composed of gold and silver, in the proportion of equal value, according to the standard between the two metals as now fixed by law.

THE AMERICAN CLAIMS.

Mr. Hale's resolution calling for the correspondence relative to American claims, was taken up and adopted. Upon moving, and the Senate went into executive session.

After a short executive session, the doors were opened.

DEATH OF MR. KAUFMAN.

Mr. Kaufman's death was announced by a message from the House.

Mr. Kaufman was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, in 1813. He served gallantly in the Texas war of independence; was twice elected to, and once speaker of the Texas House of Representatives; and was elected to Congress, and in his second term, he died suddenly in the midst of a short executive session, the doors were opened.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

BY BAIN'S ELECTRO-CHEMICAL TELEGRAPH, WASHINGTON, Feb. 1, 1851.

THE DEATH OF MR. KAUFMAN.

After the reading of the journal, Mr. HOWARD, of Texas, rose and announced the death of his colleague yesterday. He said that Mr. Kaufman came to his desk and conversed on subjects of business relating to Texas, and then passed out. No member seemed to be laid for a long time. He was the image of vigorous, robust health. At the close of the day, he (Mr. Howard) received a message that Mr. Kaufman was dying; and when he reached his lodgings, he found him pale and listless under the cold hand of death. It seems that he left the Capitol at three o'clock. When he arrived at his hotel in his carriage, a friend whom he met remarked that he was ill and pale. He observed that he was unwell, and should retire to bed. He did so, in the midst of his family, apparently not very much indisposed. About two o'clock, after having conversed with his wife and children, he breathed his last, almost without a struggle and without pain. The physicians in attendance pronounced the disease an aneurism of the heart, and the death was sudden. Mr. Kaufman was a native of Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, and was born in 1813. He graduated at Princeton College, in 1833. Having removed to Mississippi, he studied law with Gov. Quitman. He was a high wrought enthusiast on the Texas question, and was elected to Congress, and was the ardent champion of Texas. He was elected to Congress, and was the ardent champion of Texas. He was elected to Congress, and was the ardent champion of Texas.

NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.

BY MORSE'S MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH, SENATE.

ALBANY, Feb. 1, 1851.

PETITIONS.

For additional accommodations for the State Cabinet of Natural History and the Agricultural Museum.

A bill was reported, authorizing plank road companies to borrow money. Referred to the Committee of the Whole.

STATE LANDS.

Mr. Fox offered a resolution, authorizing the State Engineer and Surveyor to report to the Senate the number of acres of land in Herkimer and Hamilton counties belonging to the State.

ASSEMBLY.

ALBANY, Feb. 1, 1851.

PETITIONS PRESENTED.

Three, to stay the collection of rents on manorial lands until a judicial decision has been had thereon; two, for the par redemption of country bank notes in the city of New York; to supply common schools with Webster's Dictionary; to abolish the sale of intoxicating drinks; to abolish capital punishment, and substitute some other penalty, in place of the same; for the repeal of the free school law, of the New York Institution for the Blind, for an appropriation; three, to amend the charter of the Atlas and Homesteads Railroad Company, and the charter of the New York Institution for the Blind, for an appropriation; three, to amend the charter of the Atlas and Homesteads Railroad Company, and the charter of the New York Institution for the Blind, for an appropriation.

THE NEW CODE.

The SPEAKER announced the following joint committee on code.—Messrs. Cady, E. T. Smith, J. Benedict, Stewart and Townsend.

Mr. BARNARD, of Columbia, from the Committee on Privileges and Elections, reported that they had been unable to arrive at any definite conclusion in relation to the contested seat from Yates county. After debate, it was referred back to the committee.

Incorporating the State and National Law School; incorporating St. Luke's Hospital; more effectively organizing the State Normal Academy; amending the law relative to banking and insurance companies, are recommended by the Governor.

The committee of the Astor Library transmitted their annual report.

The Senate sent for concurrence the joint resolutions relative to the distribution of the public lands, and over.

ARREST OF AN ALLEGED FORGER.

PHILADELPHIA, February 1, 1851.

Henry Oldfield, alias Henry Roe, who arrived in the steamship City of Glasgow, was arrested this afternoon, charged with forging a draft of three hundred pounds on a house at Leeds, England, and which was cashed at Liverpool. English officers arrived in pursuit in the steamship Arctic. He was arrested at Jones' Exchange Hotel, whither he was traced by officers Blackstone of the Marshall's police. The prisoner is about thirty years of age, and of a fair complexion.

Upon searching the baggage of the prisoner at the office appeared three thousand dollars, principally American and British gold coins. The gold was secured in order that each member might have an opportunity to record his name in favor of a measure which was destined to exercise a great moral and political influence, not only in Switzerland, but in Continental Europe. This was done, and not a voice was recorded in the negative. Instead of taking voice by article, as is usually the case, the treaty was adopted en bloc. The committee which reported the treaty have recommended the establishment of a permanent mission to Switzerland, and in the course of next summer, if the Senate approve the treaty, a charge d'affaires will be appointed. The same letter contains also, the following item of information.—A block of marble will be soon on its way to the United States, obtained by the Swiss government from the Alps, to take the place in the Washington monument. It is of the description most admired by the old Romans. Beautiful though it is, to behold the mountains of Switzerland, the most considerable of which was the immortal father and founder of our country, as the Swiss statesmen are contributing to give durability to the institutions which resulted from his noble efforts to benefit mankind.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1, 1851.

PURSER DUBB has been ordered to the frigate St. Lawrence, for the voyage to London. The sloop of war Jamestown, at Norfolk, has been ordered to the Gulf, as the flagship of the home squadron. Captain Downing and Purser Hestick are ordered to her.

The Election for United States Senator from New York, &c.

ALBANY, February 1, 1851.

The passenger train from New York, last night, detained at Bridgeport half an hour, in consequence of a car's lower gearing taking fire from friction of the wheel.

The hotels at Albany are overcrowded with men from all parts of the State, who will await the election of a United States Senator.

It is generally thought that Fish is overboard. Bets are made that Strong's compromise resolutions will pass on Monday.

Several prominent men from New York, friends of Hon. J. Phillips Phoenix for Senator, arrived last night and will lobby strenuously for his success.

Collision in the Chesapeake, and Loss of Life.

BALTIMORE, February 1, 1851.

The brig Glamorgan, from Kingston, arrived this morning, reports that on Tuesday night, in the Chesapeake, off Bluff Point, came in contact with and sunk the schooner S. C. Davis, from Baltimore for New York, laden with coal. The captain, mate, and cook, were drowned.

The steamship Fanny arrived yesterday from New York.

Shipwreck—Loss of Life, &c.

NEW YORK, Feb. 1, 1851.

The brig Mechanic, from San Juan de Nicaragua, reports that the brig Martha Barlow, bound from that place to New York, with ninety California passengers, was wrecked on the 7th of January, on a reef in the Caribbean sea, and is a total loss. The Mechanic took off sixty-three passengers, but the fate of the others is unknown.

The steamship Fanny arrived yesterday from New York.

The Pennsylvania Legislature, &c.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 1, 1851.

Nothing doing in the Senate, of general interest. In the House the bill to incorporate the Philadelphia Steamship Company coming up on the third reading, some opposition was manifested to the bill, and a motion to postpone it for the present was lost. The bill passed by yeas 60, nays 45.

The Commonwealth's case, last night, made about thirty more appointments.

Fire at Albany.

ALBANY, Feb. 1, 1851.

The large three story house, corner of Grand and Hudson streets, took fire about 11 o'clock last night, and was totally consumed; it was occupied by Dr. Boyd, who, with his lady, were absent. The fire originated in the kitchen, and spread rapidly. The night was intensely cold, and it was only by building fires in the street, that the engines could be worked. The loss is not yet ascertained.

Meteorological Observations.

BY MORSE'S LINE, OFFICE 16 WALL STREET.

ALBANY, Feb. 1—9 A. M.

Wind south; thermometer 15 degrees; barometer 30.10; somewhat cloudy, but pleasant.

9 P. M.—Cloudy; wind south nearly all day; no south wind and quite strong; thermometer 27 degrees; barometer 28.50. Prospect of snow again.

7 P. M.—Snowing fast, with tremendous wind. The lake is frozen over as far as we can see. The Hendrick Hudson is icebound at Erie.

Very cloudy; weather milder and rather pleasant; wind southwest; thermometer 28 degrees.

8 P. M.—We had a very fine and not cold day. Thermometer 28 degrees.

ALBANY, Feb. 1—9 A. M.

Cloudy; but pleasant; wind west; thermometer 20. 8 P. M.—Cloudy; but pleasant, and wind southwest. Thermometer 20 degrees.

SYRACUSE, Feb. 1—9 A. M.

Wind northeast; thermometer 8 degrees above zero; cloud; and milder; wind west.

8 P. M.—Weather clear, very pleasant.

7 P. M.—Snowing fast, with tremendous wind. The lake is frozen over as far as we can see. The Hendrick Hudson is icebound at Erie.

Light wind from southwest; looks like snow.

8 P. M.—Weather cloudy; looks very much like snow.

ALBANY, Feb. 1—9 A. M.

Clear and beautiful morning, but very cold wind from west; thermometer 10 degrees above zero; barometer 30.50; thermometer 10 degrees above zero.

8 P. M.—Weather clear; wind south; thermometer 20 degrees; barometer 30.40.

ALBANY, Feb. 1—9 A. M.

Weather very cold and clear; light breeze from the west; thermometer 5 degrees below zero at 8 A. M.

8 P. M.—The thermometer has risen since this morning to 20 degrees above zero; wind light from the west; clear and cold.

ST. JOHNS, Feb. 1—9 A. M.

Clear and very cold; thermometer 8 degrees below zero; wind light from northwest.

WHITEHALL, Feb. 1—10 A. M.

Piercing cold; south wind; thermometer at 8 degrees below zero.

BELLEVILLE, Feb. 1—8 A. M.

Thermometer 2 degrees below zero, and cloudy; wind south.

THE WEATHER has moderated very much since morning. Thermometer 10 degrees above zero.

QUEBEC, Feb. 1—8 A. M.

Thermometer 8 degrees below zero in lower town, and below in upper part of town.

8 P. M.—Cold and cloudy; thermometer 6 degrees above zero.

MONTEAL, Feb. 1—8 A. M.

Fine morning; thermometer 12 degrees above zero; barometer 30.250. Indications of milder weather.

TORONTO, Feb. 1—8 A. M.

Cloudy; thermometer 22 degrees above zero.

ELGINA, Feb. 1—12 A. M.

The weather is much milder than yesterday; thermometer 10 degrees above zero.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1—12 M.

6 P. M.—Clear and cool; thermometer 30 degrees.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 1—12 M.

Clear; wind northwest; thermometer 28 degrees.

6 P. M.—Clear and moderate; thermometer 27 degrees.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 1—12 M.

Wind east, with the prospect of snow; thermometer 19 degrees.

6 P. M.—Clear and cool; thermometer 31 degrees.

WILMINGTON, Feb. 21—6 P. M.

Weather clear and cool; thermometer 29 degrees.

BOSTON, Feb. 1—8 P. M.

Cloudy; wind east; thermometer 18 degrees.

PROVIDENCE, Feb. 1—8 P. M.

Cloudy; thermometer 22 degrees.

NEW HAVEN, Feb. 1—8 P. M.

Cloudy; wind southeast; thermometer 22 degrees.

BRIDGEPORT, Feb. 1—8 P. M.

Cloudy, with the appearance of snow; thermometer 18 degrees.

STAMFORD, Feb. 1—8 P. M.

Cloudy, and appearance of snow; thermometer 22 degrees.

Thermometer at 20 Wall street, at 6 o'clock P. M. 27 degrees.

SWITZERLAND AND THE UNITED STATES—The National Intelligencer, of the 31st ult., says—

A private letter from Bern, to gentlemen from this city, under date of December 16, contains the following interesting information. To-day the treaty (with the United States) will receive the unanimous sanction of the popular branch of the National Assembly, in the next session of the Assembly. Both bodies act upon it in open session. The message written by the President of the Republic, communicating the treaty to the National Assembly, is the most complimentary document that the United States has ever emanated from the executive department of a foreign government. One of the most distinguished members of the Assembly, who was not present at the vote, expressed that it was not enough that the vote should be unanimous, but the roll should be called, in order that each member might have an opportunity to record his name in favor of a measure which was destined to exercise a great moral and political influence, not only in Switzerland, but in Continental Europe. This was done, and not a voice was recorded in the negative. Instead of taking voice by article, as is usually the case, the treaty was adopted en bloc. The committee which reported the treaty have recommended the establishment of a permanent mission to Switzerland, and in the course of next summer, if the Senate approve the treaty, a charge d'affaires will be appointed. The same letter contains also, the following item of information.—A block of marble will be soon on its way to the United States, obtained by the Swiss government from the Alps, to take the place in the Washington monument. It is of the description most admired by the old Romans. Beautiful though it is, to behold the mountains of Switzerland, the most considerable of which was the immortal father and founder of our country, as the Swiss statesmen are contributing to give durability to the institutions which resulted from his noble efforts to benefit mankind.

Our Albany Correspondence.

ALBANY, Jan. 28, 1851.

The Passenger Tax—The Smoots Railroad Project—Report on a Proposition for a Dog Tax—Banking Institutions, &c.

The following is the copy of a bill introduced in the Senate, by Mr. Morgan, to settle the title to certain moneys paid under protest to the Marine's Fund, in the city of New York:—

The Attorney General is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement to join in a suitable issue with the person or persons, or any or either of them, who paid the sum of one hundred, forty four thousand, twenty eight dollars, and ninety eight cents, into the treasury of this State, under protest, in pursuance of the laws of this State, imposing a tax on passengers arriving from foreign countries to submit all questions relating to the title to said money to the Supreme Court of this State, or to the Superior Court of the city of New York, for decision thereon; and either party may prosecute an appeal from the decision of any inferior court to which said questions shall have been submitted to the Court of Appeals of this State.

This matter has been several times before the previous Legislature, but it was not until the present session that it was brought up for consideration. It is high time the question was disposed of. The ship owners, who have paid the above large amount of money, consider that the State authorities have no right to impose a tax upon passengers arriving in this country, and they are desirous of testing the constitutionality of this State law. The Legislature ought to pass the above bill into law with all possible dispatch. Mr. Morgan is very persevering in endeavoring to obtain this favor for his commercial constituents, and it is hoped he may succeed before the close of the present session of the Legislature.

At the last session, an attempt was made by certain railroad speculators to induce the Legislature to authorize the sale of shares in a Canadian railroad company, by a species of lottery. But it failed, as the members of the Legislature, who were in reputation on the violation of an express provision of the constitution. An attempt is now being made to obtain an act of the Legislature, by which a majority of the directors of any railroad corporation may subscribe to the stock of this same Canada road. Mr. Owen, the Cattsburg Senator, has introduced a bill in the Senate, containing the following section:—

Any railroad corporation in this State may loan its credit, or may subscribe to and become the owner of stock, in like manner, and with the like rights as individuals, in the Great Western Railroad Company, Canada West, not exceeding five per cent of the capital of such corporation so loaning its credit, or subscribing to such stock.

This bill was promptly arrested. The owners of railroad stocks in this State should not allow a bare majority of the directors in any company to dispose of the surplus earnings of their stock in the manner proposed. It will throw a large amount of capital, telling how much—in the hands of foreigners. The managers of this Canada road are controlled by other laws than our own, and of whose operations not one stockholder in a thousand is advised or acquainted. Besides, many thousands of dollars of railroad stock investment in this State is the property of widows and orphans, the semi-annual dividends of which they depend upon for their immediate support. It is therefore a matter of great importance, and considerations, to give the railroad directors the authority to contribute towards building foreign railroads, which is asked in Mr. Owen's bill.

Among the reports presented to a grave, candid, and deliberate body of legislators, for calm consideration, there is one now lying upon the tables of the Assembly which excels all others. A petition was presented from several citizens of the county of Warren, praying for the imposition of a tax upon dogs, and the petition was referred to the Committee on the Internal Affairs of Towns and Counties. The following highly literary and dignified report upon the subject of the petition was presented by the Hon. Wm. Bird, a member from the county of Erie:—

The Committee on Internal Affairs, &c., to which was referred the petition of sundry inhabitants of the county of Warren, praying for the imposition of a tax upon dogs, and the petition was referred to the Committee on the Internal Affairs of Towns and Counties. The following highly literary and dignified report upon the subject of the petition was presented by the Hon. Wm. Bird, a member from the county of Erie:—

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